



This is the first impression of your essay. Make it interesting!



Essay Introduction

Your goal in the introduction is to introduce the reader to your topic. If you do this in an interesting way then you will engage your reader and he/she will actually **WANT** to read your essay! Engaging the Reader - This is where your own personal style and preferences come into play. You can choose one of many methods of engaging your reader's interest in the introduction paragraph.

Provide a Motivation

Motivate your reader to read your essay through personal connection. If you can connect your thesis to your reader's personal interests, he will be more interested in the outcome of your argument.

Shock Your Reader with Facts

A plainly-stated, startling fact can effectively grab your reader's interest. Be sure to connect the fact to your thesis.

Use a Quote

A famous quote that relates to your thesis offers a recognizable entry-point to your introduction and allows your reader to feel a sense of connection to your essay.

Pose a Question

Also an effective way of presenting your thesis, the use of questions can command your reader's attention.

Don't sacrifice the original purpose of revealing the topic to be interesting. **A catchy beginning that does not relate to your thesis and support will only take up space and confuse your reader.**

Introduction Outline

Sentence One:

Broad, general statement, motivation, statistic, quote, or question

Sentence Two:

Supporting sentence (more focused)

Sentence Three:

Thesis (one sentence with main idea and bang, bang, boom)

Introduction Examples

Example 1

Interesting "hook" -

A hook is an attention grabber that draws the interest of the reader.

Bart Simpson has been in the fourth grade for ten years. Mrs. Krabapple will testify that he obviously does not possess the characteristics of an outstanding student. Qualities every successful student should boast of are responsibility, determination, and self-control.

Example 2

Quotation

"The real hero is always a hero by mistake; he dreams of being an honest coward like everybody else." Spoken by Umberto Eco, these words describe an ordinary person who exhibits heroism when most people cower in fear. Courage, responsibility, and humility are three qualities that heroes possess.

Example 3

Statistic

Southern Florida has been ravished by hurricanes forty times in the last 130 years. However, thousands of tourists continue to throw caution to the wind by making Miami their vacation destination. The city's colorful people, lively atmosphere, and beautiful beaches all make Miami, Florida, an enjoyable place to visit.



Whatever way you use to introduce your essay, be sure that information is related to your topic and can lead a reader to your thesis statement without any extra efforts. In order to have a complete introduction, you need to connect such information with your thesis statement using a supporting sentence. Your thesis statement finishes the introduction.